

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDING TO PLEASANT HOPE FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION INC

USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$19,200 to Pleasant Hope Fire & Rescue Association, Inc. during a ceremony on May 1, 2006. A \$16,320 loan and \$2,880 grant combination will be used to purchase a replacement emergency rescue service vehicle. This will allow the fire and rescue association to continue their rescue services for the 2,420 residents in their service area.

“I am pleased to see USDA’s Rural Development agency respond to this growing need in Pleasant Hope,” Southwest Missouri Congressman Roy Blunt said. “The Pleasant Hope Fire and Rescue needs a new rescue service vehicle to respond to the increasing numbers of calls for service. Seventy percent of their calls are for medical assistance, but their vehicles are not up to the task. This partnership loan will ensure better response to calls for emergency service from the growing population of this rural area.”

Fire Chief Loyd Mincks expressed his appreciation, “Pleasant Hope Fire & Rescue Association wishes to thank USDA Rural Development. With the growing number of emergency calls in our service area, the replacement of our emergency rescue vehicle will allow continued timely response for area residents. I want to thank the board of directors and members for their support.”

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Roy Blunt for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community.” Branum added, “This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Leon Melvin, Rural Development Manager, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to [leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov](mailto:leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov).



Left to Right: Loyd Mincks, Fire Chief; Melissa Reh, Field Representative for Senator Bond; David Agee, Board Member; Nathan Correll, Field Representative for Senator Talent; Congressman Roy Blunt; Dalyn Wilson, President of the Board of Directors; Jerry Finley, Area Director for Rural Development

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**